UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE

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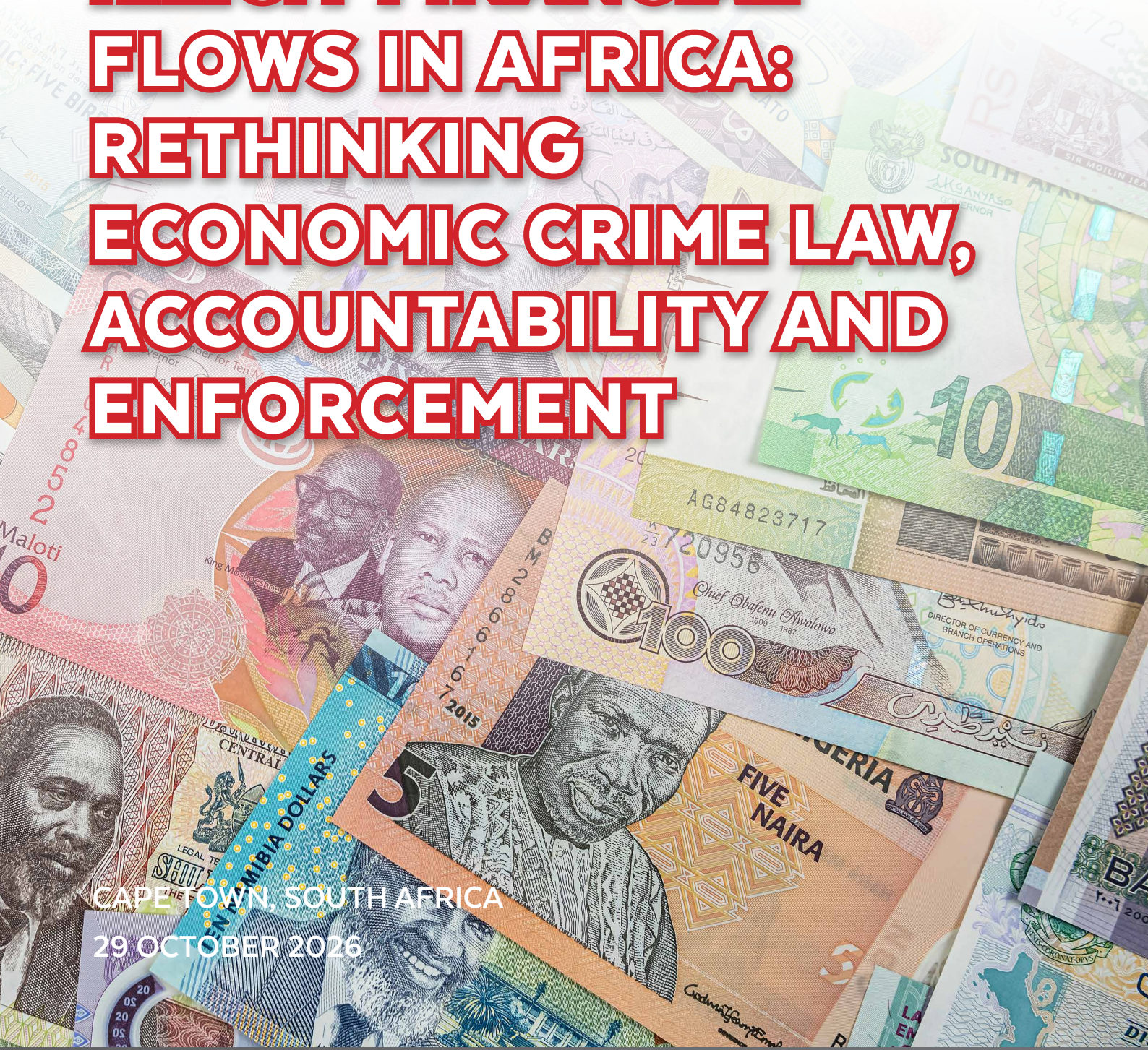
Journal of Anti-Corruption Law

ECONOMIC CRIME & CORRUPTION CONFERENCE IX

ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS IN AFRICA: RETHINKING ECONOMIC CRIME LAW, ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT



CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

29 OCTOBER 2026

Journal of Anti-Corruption Law

UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE

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CALL FOR PAPERS 2026

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Illicit financial flows (IFFs) increasingly challenge the capacity of legal systems to regulate and respond to complex forms of economic crime. United Nations (UNCTAD) estimated that approximately US$88.6 billion leaves Africa annually through illicit capital flight, equivalent to about 3.7% of Africa's GDP. UNECA's Economic Report on Africa 2025, places annual illicit financial outflows at approximately US$90 billion and estimates the annual cost of corruption at approximately US$148 billion.

The composition of IFFs is also significant and needs close attention. The United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa reports that commercial practices account for approximately 65% of IFFs from Africa, followed by crime at approximately 30% and corruption at approximately 5%. As such, IFFs extend beyond corruption and stolen public funds to encompass a wider range of economic and commercial conduct.

The Department of Criminal Justice and Procedure's 9th Economic and Cyber Crimes Conference seeks to examine IFFs primarily as a problem of economic crime law and legal accountability. The conference will critically examine the ability of African legal systems to identify the conduct, attribute responsibility, secure evidence, prosecute offenders and facilitators and impose effective sanctions.

Defining and Measuring Illicit Financial Flows

The focus of the conference will on the meaning and scope of IFFs, competing definitions, measurement methodologies and the relationship between measurement and legal classification including the following themes.

- Corruption, Organised Crime and Illicit Financial Flows
- Tax, Trade and Commercial Practices
- Corporate Structures, Beneficial Ownership and Financial Intermediaries
- Investigation, Financial Intelligence and Evidence
- Digital Finance and Emerging Economic Crimes
- Criminal Responsibility, Sanctions and Asset Confiscation
- Jurisdiction, Enforcement and the Future of African Economic Crime Law

The themes are not exhaustive. The organisers welcome doctrinal, comparative, theoretical, empirical and interdisciplinary papers that make a substantive contribution to the study of illicit financial flows, economic crime, anti-corruption law, criminal justice, financial regulation or accountability.

ABSTRACTS:

The organisers invite abstracts of no more than 200 words for papers to be presented at the conference.

Abstracts must include the following information:

- Author/s name/s
- Institutional affiliation
- Qualification
- Email address and telephone/mobile number
- Title of proposed paper
- A concise description of the proposed argument
- Methodological approach, where applicable
- Key issues to be addressed
- Expected contribution to scholarship
- Five keywords

It is anticipated that the conference presentations will be developed into full papers for consideration for publication in the Journal of Anti-corruption Law in 2027

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS: 7 OCTOBER 2026

Abstracts must be submitted to Ms Elizabeth Witten - ewitten@uwc.ac.za

FULL PAPERS AND PUBLICATION:

Authors whose abstracts are accepted will be invited to submit full papers.

DEADLINE FOR FULL PAPERS: 22 OCTOBER 2026

All submitted papers will be considered in accordance with the editorial and peer-review requirements of the Journal of Anti-Corruption Law. Selected papers may be considered for publication in a special issue or subsequent volume of JACL.

CONFERENCE DATE:

29 October 2026

The conference will be in hybrid format, attracting both physical and virtual participation. Further information concerning the venue, programme and participation arrangements will be communicated by the organisers.

FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

Prof C Albertus - calbertus@uwc.ac.za
Prof AJ Hamman - ajhamman@uwc.ac.za
Prof RD Nanima - rnanima@uwc.ac.za

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